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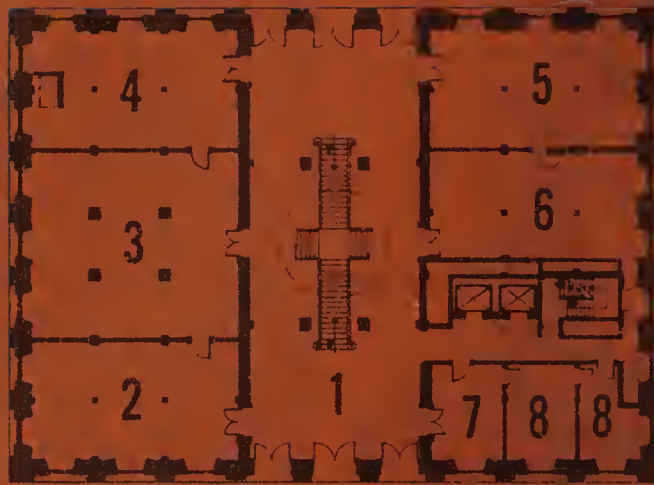


THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Old State Capitol



LEGEND

First Floor

1. Lobby
2. Auditor
3. State Library
4. Secretary of State
5. Supreme Court
6. Law Library
7. Treasurer
8. Offices



Second Floor

9. Rotunda
10. Senate
11. Governor's Reception Room
12. Governor's Office
13. Superintendent of Public Instruction
14. Adjutant General
15. Committee Rooms
16. Hall of Representatives

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THE OLD STATE CAPITOL HISTORY AND RECONSTRUCTION

The Old State Capitol, Illinois' fifth statehouse, was the first one located in Springfield. In 1837, the Sangamon County legislators, led by Abraham Lincoln, sponsored the bill which changed the seat of government from Vandalia to Springfield.

The Greek Revival structure was designed by John F. Rague of Springfield. Construction began on the foundation of locally quarried limestone in June, 1837. The stone proved so attractive it was used for the entire building, rather than the brick originally specified.

Governor Thomas Carlin ordered the state offices moved to Springfield in July, 1839, and the legislature was able to move into the new capitol in December, 1840. The building, which cost approximately \$260,000, was officially completed in 1853.

After the Civil War, the capitol was too small to house the legislature as well as the state administrative offices and supreme court. A new statehouse was authorized in 1867, and was ready for occupancy in 1876.

The Old State Capitol was sold to Sangamon County and was used as the county courthouse until 1965. In 1899, the county needed more space, so the building was jacked up, adding a new first floor and rebuilding the interior.

Over the years, a number of solutions were posed for preserving the building, and in 1961 it was repurchased by the state. Because of the major alterations made by the county, and because modern utilities had to be incorporated into the structure, reconstruction was deemed the most feasible method of making the building look as it did during Lincoln's era. This solution also allowed for the construction of a new underground State Historical Library and parking garage on the site.

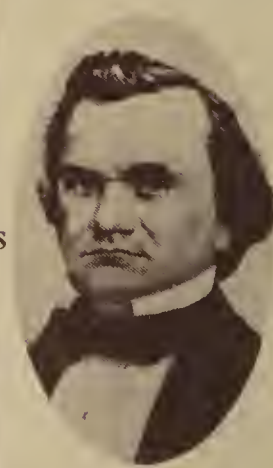
All the exterior stones were saved and reapplied over a new skeleton of concrete and steel. The Old State Capitol was rededicated on December 3, 1968, and after being furnished with antiques purchased by the Abraham Lincoln Association, was opened to the public on November 15, 1969.



Illinois Leaders



Abraham Lincoln



Stephen A. Douglas



Ulysses S. Grant

ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1809-1865

Abraham Lincoln's career was indissolubly linked with the Old State Capitol after 1837, when he led the Sangamon County legislators in their successful fight to move the capital to Springfield. Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield soon thereafter and served as a member of the Twelfth General Assembly, the first legislature to sit in the Old State Capitol.

Although Lincoln held no public office in the Old State Capitol after 1841, he was a frequent visitor to the building. His law office was never located more than half a block from the

Capitol, and he used the Law Library extensively in preparing his cases. He also borrowed books from the State Library and argued more than two hundred cases before the State Supreme Court.

Lincoln was a popular political speaker, and addressed numerous groups in the state-house. His most noted address was his 1858 "House Divided" speech. Following his nomination as Republican presidential candidate in 1860, Lincoln used the governor's quarters in the building to receive visitors and friends. Five years later, Lincoln's body lay in state in the Hall of Representatives before

his burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

1813-1861

Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's longtime political rival, was the first secretary of state to serve in the Old State Capitol. Douglas's tenure in that office was brief, since he was elected a justice of the State Supreme Court in February, 1841. He served in that post for two years, when he resigned to run for Congress. A popular speaker, Douglas is especially remembered for his debates with Lincoln during their 1858 campaign for the United States

Senate and for his inspirational address to the Illinois legislature in 1861, urging support for Lincoln and the Union.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

1822-1885

Ulysses S. Grant began his brief career in the Old State Capitol after bringing a company of Civil War volunteers from Galena to Springfield. Grant was named a military aide to Governor Richard Yates in April, 1861, and served in the office of the Illinois Adjutant General until June 15, when he was commissioned colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

- ①. THE SENATE CHAMBER. The upper house of the Illinois legislature met in this room. Each of the walnut desks is a reproduction of an original. The imposing



THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

- ① **THE SENATE CHAMBER.** The upper house of the Illinois legislature met in this room. Each of the walnut desks is a reproduction of an original. The imposing portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette, like the one of George Washington in the Hall of Representatives, was copied for this building in 1839 from a painting in the United States Capitol.
- ② **THE SUPREME COURT.** In this spartan chamber the supreme court sat to hear the cases appealed from the county circuit courts throughout Illinois. Stephen Douglas was one of the justices in 1841-1843, and Abraham Lincoln argued more than two hundred cases before the Supreme Court in this room.
- ③ **THE ROTUNDA.** The second-floor rotunda was always busy. There dances, levees, and other social gatherings took place. Today, Lincoln looks down from a campaign banner at Leonard Volk's life-size statue of his longtime political rival, Stephen A. Douglas; views of the Springfield square, painted in 1857, hang on the east and west walls.
- ④ **THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.** Abraham Lincoln spent his final term as a state legislator in this chamber in the session of 1840-1841, the first to meet in the Old State Capitol. The Hall was also used by a variety of lecturers and political speakers. One of Lincoln's best-remembered addresses, the "House Divided" speech, was delivered here following his 1858 nomination for the United States Senate.
- ⑤ **THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE.** The furnishings of this room, like those in other administrative offices, are of many styles since state officers were expected to furnish their own offices. The wooden cabinet with small metal drawers served as the filing system of the day. Stephen A. Douglas was the first secretary of state to serve in this building.
- ⑥ **THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM.** This room closely recaptures the appearance it had in November, 1860, while Abraham Lincoln used it to receive visitors and well-wishers following his election to the Presidency. The dress on the mannequin was worn by Mary Lincoln, and the wooden chain, with one link for each state and territory, duplicates one presented to Lincoln.



THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

The Old State Capitol is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Appointments for group viewings may be made by phoning Springfield (217) 525-4836, or by writing the Tour Director at the Old State Capitol.

The Illinois State Historical Society invites you to participate in its activities and programs. For further information, write Membership Secretary, Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

You may also wish to visit the other historic sites operated
by The Illinois State Historical Library and Society:



Clover Lawn
Bloomington



the Carl Sandburg Birthplace
Galesburg